Chicago-Style Citation Guide

From Chicago Manual of Style.org
Revised by Germanna Community College Academic Center for Excellence

The Chicago Manual of Style presents two basic documentation systems: (1) author-date and (2) notes and bibliography. Choosing between the two often depends on subject matter and the nature of sources cited, as each system is favored by different groups of scholars.

The author-date system has long been used by those in the physical, natural, and social sciences. In this system, sources are briefly cited in the text, usually in parentheses, by author’s last name, date of publication, and page number if applicable.

The notes and bibliography style is preferred by many in the humanities, including those in literature, history, and the arts. This style presents bibliographic information in notes and, often, a bibliography.

This handout will show examples of citations from both the notes and bibliography system and the author-date system according to the 17th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.

Author-Date: Sample Citations

The following examples illustrate citations using the author-date system. Each example of a bibliography list entry is accompanied by an example of the corresponding parenthetical citation in the text.

Book

• One author


(Pollan 2006, 99–100)
• Two or three authors


(Ward and Burns 2007, 52)

• For four or more authors, list all of the authors in the reference list; in the text, list only the first author, followed by et al. (“and others”):

(Barnes et al. 2010, 122)


• Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author


(Lattimore 1951, 91–92)

• Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author


(García Márquez 1988, 242–55)

• Chapter or other part of a book


(Kelly 2010, 77)

• Chapter of an edited volume originally published elsewhere (as in primary sources)


(Cicero 1986, 35)
• Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book


(Rieger 1982, xx–xxi)

• Book published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL; include an access date only if one is required by your instructor. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title, a chapter, or other location number.


(Austen 2007)


(Kurland and Lerner, chap. 10, doc. 19)

Journal article

• Article in a print journal

In the text, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the reference list entry, list the page range for the whole article.


(Weinstein 2009, 440)

• Article in an online journal

Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL.

(Kossinets and Watts 2009, 411)

• **Article in a newspaper or popular magazine**

Newspaper and magazine articles may be cited in running text (“As Sheryl Stolberg and Robert Pear noted in a New York Times article on February 27, 2010, . . .”) or with an in-text citation. The following examples show the formal versions of the citations. If you consulted the article online, include a URL. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.


(Mendelsohn 2010, 68)


(Stolberg and Pear 2010)

• **Book review**


(Kamp 2006)

• **Thesis or dissertation**


(Choi 2008)

• **Paper presented at a meeting or conference**


(Adelman 2009)
• **Website**

A citation for website content can often be limited to a mention in the text ("As of July 19, 2008, the McDonald’s Corporation listed on its website . . ."), or it will include an in-text citation. Below are examples of formal citations. Because such content is subject to change, a date that the site was last modified. In the absence of a date of publication, use the access date or last-modified date as the basis of the citation.


(Google 2017)

• **Blog entry or comment**

Blog posts are cited both in-text and in the bibliography. In the bibliography, if the word “blog” is part of the title, there is no need to repeat the word “blog” in parenthesis after the title is stated. Comments, however, are only cited in running text ("In a comment posted to The Becker-Posner Blog on February 23, 2010, . . .").


(Lennon 2010)

• **E-mail or text message**

E-mail and text messages may be cited in running text (“In a text message to the author on March 1, 2019, John Doe revealed . . .”), and they are rarely listed in a reference list. In parenthetical citations, the term personal communication (or pers. comm.) can be used.

(John Doe, e-mail message to author, March 1, 2019)

(John Doe, pers. comm.)
• Item in a commercial database

For items retrieved from a commercial database, add the name of the database and an accession number following the facts of publication. In this example, the dissertation cited above is shown as it would be cited if it were retrieved from ProQuest’s database for dissertations and theses.


(Choi 2008).

Notes and Bibliography: Sample Citations

The following examples illustrate citations using the notes and bibliography system. Examples of footnotes are followed by shortened versions of citations to the same source. The most notable change in the 17th edition from previous editions is the use of “Ibid.” for repeated sources in the notes is now discouraged.

Book

• One author


3. Pollan, 15.


• Two or three authors


3. Ward and Burns, 63.

- **For four or more authors, list all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by et al. (“and others”):**


  3. Barnes et al., 143.


- **Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author**


  3. Lattimore, 64.


- **Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author**


  3. García Márquez, 27.


- **Chapter or other part of a book**


• Chapter of an edited volume originally published elsewhere (as in primary sources)


• Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book


2. Rieger, introduction, xxxiii.

3. Rieger, xxvi.


• Book published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL; include an access date only if one is required by the instructor. If no fixed page numbers are available, you may include a section title, a chapter, or other location number.


5. Kurland and Lerner, chap. 9, doc. 1.


**Journal article**

- **Article in a print journal**

In a note, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the bibliography, list the page range for the whole article.


3. Weinstein, 428.


- **Article in an online journal**

Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent identification that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL.


- **Article in a newspaper or popular magazine**

Newspaper and magazine articles may be cited in running text (“As Sheryl Stolberg and Robert Pear noted in a *New York Times* article on February 27, 2010, . . .”) or with a note. The following example show the formal versions of the citations. If you consulted the article online. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.


2. Stolberg and Pear, “Wary Centrists.”


- **Book review**


- **Thesis or dissertation**


2. Choi, “Contesting Imaginaires.”

• Paper presented at a meeting or conference


• Website

A citation for website content can often be limited to a mention in the text (“As of July 19, 2018, the McDonald’s Corporation listed on its website . . .”), or it can be included in a note. A note is required if the source is not referenced in the sentence. Because such content is subject to change, include a date that the site was last modified.


2. “Google Privacy Policy.”


• Blog entry or comment

Blog entries or comments may be cited in running text (“In a comment posted to The Becker-Posner Blog on February 23, 2017, . . .”) instead of in a note; however, if they are not introduced in this manner, a note is required. The following examples show the formal versions of the citations. Include the URL to indicate the information’s location. In addition, there is no need to add pseud. after an apparently fictitious or informal name.


- **E-mail or text message**

E-mail and text messages may be cited in running text (“In a text message to the author on March 1, 2010, John Doe revealed . . .”) or with a note; however, unpublished emails and text messages are not given a bibliography entry. The following example shows the more formal version of a note.


- **Item in a commercial database**

For items retrieved from a commercial database, add the name of the database and an accession number following the facts of publication. In this example, the dissertation cited is shown as it would be cited if it were retrieved from ProQuest’s database for dissertations and theses.


**Additional Resources**

For more information about Chicago Manual Style, please refer to the following handouts from Germanna’s Academic Center for Excellence:

- [Chicago Notes and Bibliography Style Sample Paper](#)
- [Chicago Author-Date Style Sample Paper](#)
- [Google Docs: Instructions for Formatting an Academic Paper](#)
- [Chicago Style Paper Checklist for College Writers](#)